

Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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STATE LIBRARY REMODELS STAFF LEARNS MUDDIN' & ROCKIN'



Karen Strege, State Librarian, surveys the remodeling

At the beginning of January, MSL staff hunkered down for two months of construction designed to provide the Talking Book Library with a more convenient equipment room and other library staff with renovated office areas. Led by the construction gurus at the General Services Division, the state awarded this small project to Serati Construction who provided vocabulary lessons to MSL staff and a model of efficiency and responsibility. Working primarily on weekends and nights, Serati Construction finished the project on-time with only anticipated interruptions to operations. MSL staff displayed remarkable flexibility and understanding of the unavoidable small snafus and communications problems. Staff, including the State Librarian, managed to hold on to 95% of their sense of humor for at least 85% of the construction project.



Dixie Carson, Don Cornish and Sue Jackson at new office wall.

Calendar

April 15	MSL Commission Meeting - Helena
April 19-25	National Library Week and Reading is Fun Week
April 29 - May 2	MLA Conference - Missoula
May 4	Center for the Book Idea Exchange Day - Washington, D.C.
May 5	ALA Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.
May 6-9	MPLA/Utah Library Association joint conference, Salt Lake City
June 17	MSL Commission Meeting - Helena
June 25-July 2	ALA Annual Conference - Washington, D.C.
August 12	MSL Commission Meeting - Whitefish [tentatively]

A Word From Our State Librarian



Change has been our mantra in the past five months at the State Library, as you will see in other parts of this Newsletter. In January we said good-bye to three good friends. Mary Jane West, Allan Cox, and Sandra Jarvie all left to pursue other options and dreams. I wish them all the best. Other new (and old) friends have taken their places. I would like to welcome Amanda Christen to the Montana library community. Amanda is our new administrative assistant. During Amanda's first few weeks she has attended a Commission meeting and a Law Revision Task Force meeting, plus she has gotten used to new places, faces, and an all new vocabulary (LSTA, WLN, ISP, etc.) Amanda is continuing Mary Jane's excellent work by providing friendly and efficient service at MSL.

Sandra Jarvie's replacement is Christie Briggs, former volunteer coordinator in the Talking Books Library. Christie brings significant organization and people skills to this important position.

The NRIS director position closes today (March 2). I hope in the next newsletter to announce the name of the person who attempts to fill Allan's shoes.

Another new staff member, Dana Ruby, arrived at MSL in February. Dana is our new technology consultant and joins Magi Malone and John Finn in covering the needs of public libraries. Dana joins us from the South Dakota State Library where he served as Public Library Consultant.

These staff changes have given

us the opportunity to look at our organizational structure.

Darlene Staffeldt, has been promoted to the Director of Program I. This Program's departments include the Talking Books Library (TBL), Library and Information Services (LIS), and Library Development Department (LDD). Another change is that LDD will be organized as a self-managing work team. The five members of this department, as well as Darlene and I, are currently learning about this way of organizing work. These changes in our organization's structure are primarily internal and you should see no differences in the way that the State Library provides services to you or members of your community.

At the State Library we realize that change is our only constant. We try to manage unexpected and unwanted changes, such as staff turnover, to provide new opportunities for existing staff and to improve services. We try to manage expected and desired changes, such as the development of Public Library Standards, with the advice and help from the affected groups. Even these good changes mean giving up something, either old ways of doing work, familiar spaces, or lines on the organizational chart, and cause us some stress. I'm very proud of the way that MSL staff has handled both types of changes in the past four months.

Karen's Travel Schedule:
March 11-14 - Public Library Assoc. Conference, Kansas City
26 - Pathfinder Federation, Belt
27 - Networking Task Force, Helena
28-29 - Broad Valleys Federation, Butte
April 3 - Tamarack Federation, Hot Springs
29-May 2 - MLA Conference, Missoula
May 2-6 - ALA Legislative Day/ COSLA meeting, Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK CELEBRATION

Governor Racicot is joining the Montana State Library Commission and staff to proclaim April 19-25 as National Library Week. On April 15, the Governor will visit the State Library from 11:30 until noon to view the recent library remodeling and proclaim National Library Week. To emphasize the theme of National Library Week "Kids Connect @ the Library," the Governor will read a story to a first grade class. Please join us in Helena on April 15 to celebrate libraries in Montana.

NOTICE: Workshops

MSL has arranged a special **TRUSTEE WORKSHOP** at MLA on May 2nd. Marj Hooper, public library consultant from the Idaho State Library, is a well-known speaker on issues that concerned library trustees. She will present a workshop that addresses the relationship between a library director and trustees, and running effective board meetings at a Saturday morning workshop. Especially designed for trustees and directors, you will find this workshop to be educational and enjoyable for your administrative team.

CD-ROM of Statewide Data in Arc/InfoTM Shapefile Format Available

The Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) at the Montana State Library has recently completed development of a CD-ROM containing basic GIS databases for Montana. The Montana statewide data CD-ROM contains 600 megabytes of data in ESRI shapefile format. It includes the U.S. Census Bureau 1:100,000 scale 1992 TIGER base map data; 1:100,000 scale major public land ownership and township and section lines provided by the BLM; Census Block boundaries with population data, school and legislative district boundaries, and urban area boundaries; and 1990 Census designated place boundaries and county

boundaries. It also contains locations of mines, highways, major streams, cities and towns, river basins, national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. It has colored, shaded relief images at 260 meter and 130 meter resolutions, 1:250,000 scale land use, and the Geographic Names Information System, with the locations of 28,000 named features. The CD comes with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Arc ExplorerTM software that can be used to view the data from any Microsoft Windows 95 or NT system.

Around the State

Michael J. Ober, Library Director for the Flathead Valley Community College, has received an appointment for a four-year term to the board of directors for the Montana Committee for the Humanities beginning in January of 1998.

Cascade County has provided a \$7,500 appropriation to supply computers to the Cascade and Belt libraries. John Finn, Technology Consultant for the Montana State Library, and Kathy Mora, Systems Administrator with the Great Falls Public Library, set up the computers and taught librarians basic Internet skills.

Marian Geil who is a former librarian at the Hearts Free Library, has written a book about that library. It will be a 144-page hardcover book. The dust jacket will feature a painting of the library by the late Paul Hawkins, a local artist. Former head librarian Natalie Sliepecevic donated the artwork for the cover, which had been a gift to her from the board of trustees for 50 years of service.

The Whitefish Library has received several donations, including several magazine subscriptions sponsored by patrons, a 27 inch television, a video cassette recorder, an audio visual cart and furniture for children's area and 15-10 youth sports videos from the Whitefish Youth Opportunity Foundation, and an IBM computer, modem and printer for staff use from Marge Fisher.

The Bozeman Public Library reports that the library will be installing an Electronic Notification System. This system will deliver prerecorded messages to patrons about overdue and reserve materials by telephone. The system will free staff from having to make about 850 phone calls a month and thus give them more time to serve patrons.

The Lewistown Library received a donation of a Gateway 2000 computer from Montana Communication Network [MCN], which provides local Internet access in Lewistown.

The Ronan City Library bought \$1,100 worth of new children's books for \$350, all award winning hardcovers. The books were obtained through the Libri Foundation.

(Around the State - Continued on page 4)

Kid's Internet Website

On December 22, 1997, Governor Marc Racicot joined in the unveiling of the "**MONTANA KIDS!**" website [<http://kids.state.mt.us>]. A year in the making, the site highlights facts about Montana, presents information about the state's history, its natural resources, activities, attractions and other topics that will help its users learn about the state. The site's host is a duck bill dinosaur cartoon character named Maia. Maia and the site's other cartoon features were created by Helena artist Peter Grosshauser.

Public Library Standards

These standards were last revised in 1983. For the last three months, MSL staff and a committee of the Public Library Division of MLA have been busy talking about a proposed set of standards for public libraries. Members of this committee and MSL staff will attend Spring Federation meetings to solicit opinions and comments on a draft set of standards. After the last Federation meeting, the committee will meet to review the information gathered and devise another draft set of standards which will be presented at an MLA workshop at the end of April. The committee hopes to have standards for the MSL Commission to approve at their June or August meeting. The members of the committee are: Darlene Staffeldt, Deborah Schlesinger, Karyn Brown, Jim Peters, Ann Drew, Nancy Brennan, Gloria Langstaff, Greta Chapman, Milla Cummings, Bette Ammon, Renee Goss, Karen Strege and David Johnson.

(Around the State - Continued from page 3)

The Livingston-Park County Public Library has been offered a \$70,000 donation from an anonymous source on condition that it be matched by the community. The library has raised more than \$10,000 of the match money. The funds would be used to make critically needed repairs to the historic building.

An Evening of Delightful Bids

Please join your friends at an exciting auction at the MLA conference to raise funds for the Sheila Cates Scholarship Fund. On April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, you will have the opportunity to bid on wonderful items donated by members of the library community. The Scholarship Fund Committee will also sell raffle tickets at the conference for a beautiful quilt donated by Malta-area Library Media Specialists as their way of thanking Montana Library Media Centers for their support and donations of books when a fire destroyed the Malta school. To donate to the auction contact Diane Gunderson, 406-444-5349.

GIS Conference

The 10th Annual 1998 Montana/Idaho GIS Users Conference will be held at the Ramada Copper King Inn in Butte, April 17-30. The Keynote speakers include former Montana Congressman Pat Williams, Dr. Earl Epstein, professor at the School of Natural Resources, Ohio State University, and Joseph Berry, a columnist for "GIS Worlds."

The conference offers many opportunities for a broad range of GIS users. On April 27, students from K-12 schools will showcase GIS projects developed in the K-12 Adopt-a-School program. Co-sponsored by the NRIS program at the State Library, this program is designed to help libraries increase public access to geographic data. Ken Wall will offer a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) basic workshop geared towards teachers and students, using simple and inexpensive hand held GPS receivers.

For details visit the website at: <http://mbmg-sun.mtech.edu/giscon98/>

MSL SPONSORS PROGRAMS AT MLA

MSL staff will be busy at MLA presenting a variety of programs. Diane Gunderson, State Data Coordinator, will explain the hows and whys of annual statistical reports. Karen Strege and others will give updates on the activities of all MSL programs on Friday, April 30. MSL/MLA's Public Library Division's committee on Standards will roll out the revised draft standards for comment. Margaret Beer, data coordinator from our Heritage Program, will demonstrate NRIS's web-site, which contains information about Montana's natural resources. The Technology Librarians, along with Renee Goss, will answer questions about the Internet during a panel discussion.

Just for fun (and food and drink!) please stop by the Montana State Library Commission's annual reception. This popular event gives the library community the chance to rub and raise elbows with the best Library Commission in the U.S. The location is not set, but the reception is on Friday from 5 to 6:00 p.m.



Notes from MSL

FORMER STATE LIBRARIAN

PASSES AWAY: Alma S. Jacobs, 81, of Bozeman, formerly the Montana State Librarian passed away

December 18, 1997, at the Gallatin Rest Home. She was born November 21, 1916, in Lewistown Montana. She graduated from the Great Falls High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Talledega College in Alabama. She was also awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from the Columbia University School of Library Science. Alma spearheaded the campaign for a new library building in Great Falls. From 1973 to 1981 Alma served as Montana's State Librarian. She was a staunch opponent of censorship. Alma loved spending time with her family, traveling and fishing. Survivors include a nephew, Alan Thompson and his wife Rosalie Walsh of Helena; and a niece, Kathleen Reed of Great Falls.

ACTIONS OF THE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION AT THEIR FEBRUARY 19TH MEETING: The Commission approved the following:

- The request of Havre-Hill County Library to be designated as the Pathfinder Federation's Headquarters Library.
- The joint request by the Attorney General's Office and the State Library for funds from the Long Range Building Program to add a partial third floor to the existing building.

The Commission deferred a decision on a new Federation Policy until the April meeting.

In other business, the Commission heard reports from the three technology consultants, current LSCA and LSTA projects, the NRIS Advisory Council, the standards revision process, and the Law Revision and Networking Task Forces.

The Commission will meet again on April 15 at the State Library.

LAW REVISION TASK FORCE STUDIES LEVIES & DISTRICTS: This task force met in Helena in January and February to discuss the possibility of modifying library law to allow for elections to exceed the library's statutory maximum levy limit for a period of more than one year. The task force also reviewed a draft of statutes

that would allow counties or cities to form an independent library district. The group views this possible proposal as another way of organizing to provide local library service and sees the proposal as enabling not mandatory. A library district would not replace the current governing structure of any Montana public library unless the local community preferred the district alternative. The task force will meet again on April 14 to review these legislative initiatives as possible recommendations to the MSL Commission.

NETWORKING TASK FORCE CONSIDERS RECOMMENDATIONS: For the past six months, this task force has studied possible changes in the interlibrary loan reimbursement formula. At its March 27th meeting, the group will review a proposed change to the existing formula to present to the MSL Commission. The task force has also evaluated changes in the current interlibrary loan statutes and will formulate a final recommendation at the March meeting.

The Networking Task Force has also interviewed Internet Service Providers [ISP] and is working with the Montana Communications Network [MCN] to develop a model contract for local libraries to use with MCN. Although local libraries will make the final decision among competing vendors, the task force views their efforts with MCN as helping librarians and trustees find ISP service at a reasonable price.

The possibility of a statewide union catalog is also a topic of interest to the task force.

If you have any questions about the Networking or Law Revision Task Forces' recommendations or activities, contact: Karen Strege, 406-444-3116. Also, the meeting notes from these two groups are posted on MSL's website at: <http://msl.mt.gov>.

Paraprofessionals

Montana Library Paraprofessionals met January 16, 1998 to discuss details for the MLA Convention Paraprofessional workshop. A flyer announcing the group and the MLA workshop will be sent to all libraries by the end of March. The group will meet at noon on March 27th at Carroll College's Corette Library, to finalize workshop details.



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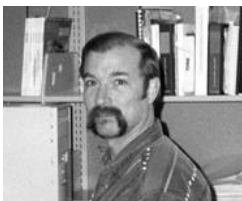
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Spotlight: Statewide Technology Librarians



We are pleased to announce that all three Statewide Technology Librarian positions have been filled. Each will be working with public libraries in two federations, and on statewide projects.

John Finn [see top picture] based at the Great Falls Public Library, is working with the Pathfinder and Golden Plains federations. His statewide projects include coordinating selection of an Internet service provider for the group of Montana Access Project libraries and coordinating statewide licensing for EBSCO Host. He comes from Illinois where he was a reference librarian at the Illinois State Library. Contact John at [406]761-7120 or toll free at 1-888-502-0012, or e-mail jfynn@orion.mtgr.mtlib.org.

Magi Malone [see middle picture], based at the Parmly Billings Library, is working with the South Central and Sagebrush federations. Her statewide projects include coordinating the LSTA

project for Internet connects for Montana public libraries that currently do not have access and providing support on all aspects of the E-Rate/universal service program to public libraries. Magi worked at the MSU-College of Technology in Great Falls, the Lewis & Clark Public Library and the EPA Records Center. Contact Magi at [406]255-0729 or toll free at 1-888-826-0837, or e-mail mmalone@billings.lib.mt.us.

Dana Ruby, [see bottom picture] based at the Montana State Library, is working with the Broad Valleys and Tamarack federations. His statewide projects include LaserCat volume pricing, and staff liaison with the Networking Task Force. Dana came to Montana from South Dakota where he was Public Library Consultant for the South Dakota State Library. Contact Dana at [406]444-5431, toll free at 1-800-338-5087, or e-mail: druby@msl.mt.gov.